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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

January 2-3—CCSA Executive Committee, New York.

January 6-16—Puerto Rican Study Tour, Galen Weaver, Director.

January 19-26—Church and Economic Life Week.

January 29-31—Council for Christian Social Action Meeting, Buck Hill Falls Inn, Cresco, Pennsylvania.

February—Christian Social Action Month of Emphasis, United Church of Christ.

February 4-7 — Churchmen's Washington Seminar, Washington, D. C.

February 9—Race Relations Sunday.

February 11-13—Southern Christian Social Action Institute, Avon Park, Florida.

April 15-17—CCSA Washington Seminar.

June 20-22—Conference on the Churchman as a Citizen, Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

July 1-5—Western Social Action Institute, Mill Valley, California.

July 8-12—Mid-West Social Action Institute, Plymouth, Wisconsin.

July 15-19—Ohio Social Action Institute, Oberlin College, Oberlin.

July 22-26—Eastern Social Action Institute, Framingham, Massachusetts.

July 2-August 10—European Study Seminar, Galen R. Weaver, Director.

August 8-27—Mexican Study Seminar, Huber F. Klemme, Director.

ANNOUNCING

Visitors to Florida in February will be welcomed as members of a Christian Social Action Institute sponsored by the Social Action Committee of the Florida Conference and the Southern Synod, at Lake Byrd Lodge, Avon Park, on February 11-13. The cost of registration, two nights lodging, and six meals, will be $10. Registration cards and information regarding the program can be obtained from Mr. Wilfred Oliver, 633 Thirty-third Street, West Palm Beach, Florida. Avon Park is on Route 8, about 25 miles south of Lake Wales.

* * * *

Registrations are now being accepted for the Yale University Summer School of Alcohol Studies, which has announced that the dates for its 16th annual session are June 29 - July 24, 1958.

Pastors who are interested in the program for 1958 are urged to make application soon. This can be done directly to the Registrar, the Yale School of Alcohol Studies, 52 Hillhouse Avenue, Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut.

Unfinished Business of the 85th Congress

By Charles M. Smith

When the Congress adjourned on August 30, a number of bills and resolutions to which Christian churchmen attached major importance were left pending for further consideration in the second session of this Congress which convenes on January 7, 1958. Following is a report on this incompleted legislation, plus certain other legislative proposals which it is known will be taken up in the 1958 session.

Domestic Affairs

PRESIDENTIAL INABILITY

The House Judiciary Committee has before it four bills to provide a method of determining the inability of the President to perform the duties of his office, should he be unable or unwilling to declare his inability. A special subcommittee had considered recommendations by President Eisenhower for a constitutional amendment to provide for this contingency. The four bills are: H. J. Res. 293 (Representative Celler); H. J. Res. 295 (Representative Celler); H. R. 6510 (Representative Keating); and H. J. Res. 334 (Representative Keating).

AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

After extensive hearings on the Administration's recommendations and other proposals, the House Committee on Education and Labor approved a bill (H. R. 1) providing for Federal grants of $300,000,000 a year for five years to aid local school districts in construction of school facilities which they were not able to provide out of their own resources. This bill was killed after it had been amended to prohibit the allocation of any funds to segregated school districts. The House Committee could in the second session report out similar legislation. Senate leaders have said they will not initiate legislation on this subject, but will wait for the House to act. Meanwhile, the Administration is reported to be preparing new legislative proposals.

HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL

To be continued, the programs of Federal aid for low rent public housing

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International Relations

Most of the major business of the second session of the 85th Congress in the field of international relations will require new legislation to be introduced after the convening in January. Following are some of the topics needing to be treated:

MUTUAL SECURITY

The Administration will submit a proposed Mutual Security Act of 1958, which is expected to authorize continuance of the United States program of technical cooperation, enlargement and extension of the Development Loan Fund, and increase United States participation in the United Nations Expanded Program of Technical Assistance. Appropriations will have to be made to implement the programs authorized. Details of the Administration's recommendations cannot be known before they are submitted to the Congress. Objectives considered by many to be desirable are maintenance of the technical and economic aid program at an adequate level, without crippling restrictions, and on a long-term basis. Also, it is considered important that these programs be clearly distinguished in policy and administration from military assistance programs.

RECIPROCAL TRADE

The Reciprocal Trade Agreements program will need new authorization in 1958, and the Administration is now preparing its recommendation on this subject, which will be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee. Congressional sentiment has favored continuance of this program, but in the

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Unfinished Business—Domestic

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and urban renewal will require new authorization by Congress in 1958. Public housing faces the usual difficulty of overcoming efforts of its opponents to terminate this program, plus a reported disposition by the Administration to defer action on grounds of economy. The President has cited urban renewal as a responsibility that might be transferred to the States, and there is expected to be strong Congressional opposition to continuance of federal grants for this purpose. On the other hand, private organizations and subcommittees of House and Senate Banking and Currency Committees are conducting studies of housing and planning measures designed to meet the needs of growing urbanization, and these are expected to result in proposals for comprehensive legislation in 1958.

CIVIL RIGHTS

It is expected that there will be in the second session of the 85th Congress an effort to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1957 by the addition of a section covering civil rights other than voting rights, similar to the provisions of Part III which was eliminated from the 1957 Act by action of the Senate. Part III would have authorized the Justice Department to seek federal court injunctions to prevent interference with any of the civil rights protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States with contempt actions available to enforce such injunctions. It was claimed by opponents of the bill that Section III was an attempt on the part of the Federal Government to enforce integration in the schools and elsewhere "at the point of the bayonet." This was denied by supporters of the bill and by the Administration. Nevertheless, Part III was eliminated, leaving the bill restricted to protection of voting rights.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS

Several legislative proposals have been stimulated by the Watkins decision of the Supreme Court which held that in Congressional committee investigations a witness "is entitled . . . to have knowledge of the subject to which the interrogation is deemed pertinent . . . with the same degree of explicitness and clarity that the Due Process Clause requires in the expression of any element of a criminal offense." H. R. 259 (Representative Keating), approved by the House Judiciary Committee and now pending in the House Rules Committee, provides a procedure under which a Federal District Court might pass on the propriety of a question which a witness has refused to answer. H. Res. 307 (Representative Doyle) would rename the House Committee on Un-American Activities and amend its mandate to conform to the requirements of the Watkins decision; this resolution is pending in the House Rules Committee.

PASSPORT RESTRICTIONS

The continued ban on passports for travel to Communist China and other restrictions have prompted legislation to establish policy for issuance and denial of passports. S. Con. Res. 21 (Senator Hennings) supports issuance of a new passport to William Worthy, newspaperman whose passport was taken up when he travelled in Communist China despite the State Department ban. This resolution is pending in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The same committee has before it S. 2770 (Senator Fulbright), which would establish statutory criteria to be followed by the State Department in acting on passport applications. H. Con. Res. 153 (Representative Celler) would direct that passports be issued to accredited newspaper correspondents for professional travel in any area. This resolution is pending in the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

LABOR WELFARE FUNDS

Legislation supported both by the Administration and by the AFL-CIO requiring registration, reporting and disclosure of welfare and pension benefit plans is pending in both House and Senate. Main provisions are that each such plan, whether administered jointly, or solely by management or unions, must be registered with the U. S. Department of Labor, and that detailed financial information regarding the plans must be reported. The proposals also require that such information be given to all beneficiaries of the plans.

Hearings were held in both House and Senate on bills with these general provisions. At the close of the session, S. 2888, sponsored by Senators Douglas, Kennedy, Ives, Murray and McNamara was reported by a subcommittee to the full Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. The House Committee on Education and Labor has not acted.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS

Bills now pending in Congress call for significant extension of the protection of the Fair Labor Standards Act, with its minimum wage and maximum hour provisions, to workers not now covered. S. 1267 (Morse) and H. R. 4575 (Kelley) would extend coverage to about 9 million additional workers, and S. 1853 (Kennedy) would reach about 6 million now excluded. The Administration has called for amendments which, it is estimated, would extend protection to about 2.5 million additional workers. Extensive hearings were held by Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare and House Committee on Education and Labor. A Senate subcommittee reported a compromise bill, but no bill was reported to the floor for action.

SOCIAL SECURITY REVISION

The "Social Security Amendments of 1958" (H. R. 9467, introduced by Representative Forand) are now pending in the House Ways and Means Committee. "Major improvements in social security" are called for in the bill, according to a release from Mr. Forand's office. It would "increase present old-age, survivors, and disability insurance benefit amounts by about ten per cent and provide insurance against the cost of hospital, nursing home, and surgical care for persons eligible to receive old-age and survivors insurance benefits. It would also increase the maximum amount of annual earnings counted under old-age and survivors insurance for contribution and benefit purposes and include provisions for meeting the added costs of the broadened benefits." The Committee has not yet taken action on the bill.

INDIAN LEGISLATION

Each Congress considers a large volume of legislation affecting Indian Americans. Major bills pending include S. Con. Res. 3 (Senator Murray). In 1953 Congress declared that Federal responsibility in Indian affairs should be terminated at the earliest possible date (H. Con. Res. 108.). An alternative policy is proposed in Senator Murray's resolution: that termination should not be imposed on Indians, and that the Bureau of Indian affairs should concentrate on helping Indian communities raise their living standards. Corresponding House resolutions are H. Con. Res. 155 (Representative Metcalf) and H. Con. Res. 160 (Representative McGovern). All three measures are pending in House and Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. They are opposed by the Administration. Hearings have been held on S. Con. Res. 3. Other bills of

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International Relations

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past industry groups advocating trade restrictions in their own areas have been successful in obtaining limitations and restrictions reducing the effectiveness of the program. Such groups have been active in preparation for the contest in 1958 and their effort represents the chief danger to the legislation. A related problem is acceptance by the United States of membership in the Organization for Trade Cooperation, which would administer the system of reciprocal trade agreements. The President's request for authorization of OTC membership is embodied in H. R. 6630 (Representative Cooper) and H. R. 6631 (Representative Kean). Hearings were held by the House Ways and Means Committee on similar legislation in 1956, but none have been held on the pending bills.

AGRICULTURAL SURPLUS DISPOSAL

Legislative proposals are being prepared in the Executive Department to extend the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act (P. L. 480), as will be necessary in 1958. Among other things, the present statute provides for sale of farm surpluses to friendly countries with payment in local currencies; distribution of surpluses for emergency relief, allocation of surpluses for distribution through the relief programs of voluntary agencies; and barter of surpluses with Eastern European countries in return for strategic and other materials. The new legislation will be handled by the Agriculture Committees in House and Senate.

U. N. POLICE FORCE

A number of proposals were introduced in 1957 declaring support of House or Senate for the establishment of a permanent United Nations emergency force to assist in halting hostilities and providing time for the conduct of negotiations to maintain the peace. S. Res. 15 (Senator Sparkman and others) was passed by the Senate. A number of similar resolutions are pending in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs: H. Con. Res. 165-170; H. Res. 367-372; and H. Res. 400. Sponsoring one or more resolutions are Representatives Carnahan, Frelinghuysen, Merrow, Wainwright, Hale Reuss, and Edna Kelly.

CONTROL OF ATOMIC TESTS

Two members of Congress have introduced measures supporting control of nuclear weapons testing: Senator Wayne Morse, in S. Res. 173, calls upon the President to work for multilateral suspension of tests until an international committee of scientists can assess the danger from radioactive fallout. Representative Charles O. Porter, in H. R. 8269, suggests that the United States suspend tests unilaterally and maintain this suspension "so long as all other countries refrain from exploding such devices." Neither of these measures has been acted upon by the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES

The 1957 amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act, providing for so-called hardship cases, failed to meet the needs for immigration reform and refugee relief as set forth by the President and urged by many church and other voluntary organizations. Absent, for example, was any provision to regularize the residence status of Hungarian refugees admitted during the year as parolees or permanent provision for admission of refugees. Basic reform of the immigration statute was not attempted. It is expected that new legislation will be introduced to meet these deficiencies. Meanwhile the Celler Bill, H. R. 3364, providing for an overhauling of our immigration and naturalization policies and procedures is still pending in the House Judiciary Committee.

Domestic Affairs

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major interest are S. 331 (Senator Murray) and H. R. 3493 (Representative Metcalf) and H. R. 3790 (Representative Udall), requiring that jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters on Indian reservations may be transferred from the Federal Government to states only with the consent of the Indian groups affected. These bills are pending in the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees.

We are indebted to Charles M. Smith, Associate Director of the Washington Office of the National Council of Churches, for his helpful survey of where the Congress stands with respect to legislation of importance to the nation and to the church. Before coming to the National Council, Mr. Smith served with a number of government agencies as well as with private organizations.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Do you belong to a social action committee which sometimes wonders what to do? Here are some ideas, as seen in a statement of purpose published in October in the parish paper of First Congregational Church, Madison, Wisconsin:

"We desire to keep a keen edge on the social conscience of the church. During the coming year, in regular study meetings (First Sunday of the month, as a rule, from 4 to 6 p. m.) the group will explore the following areas of concern, with emphasis upon needs 'within fifteen miles of my church'; 1. Racial integration and discrimination in housing; 2. Mental health and problems of the aging; 3. World peace and understanding of the U.N.; 4. Continued study of Menominee Indian Problem; 5. Current legislation.

"Any persons concerned with the vital issues we confront as a people are invited to participate.—Elmer E. Meyer, Chairman."

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An article in the September issue of the *Pilgrim State News,* a Massachusetts Congregational magazine, describes the experiences of Richard Chamberlain, who is National Action Commission Chairman of the Pilgrim Fellowship, and an associate member of the Council for Christian Social Action. Mr. Chamberlain spent the summer of 1957 visiting and working in Pilgrim Fellowship camps in nine states, interpreting the social action program of the Fellowship and of the United Church to thousands of our youth.

In one place in Alabama he met with an interracial group to discuss race relations. "At the beginning," he says, "I thought the discussion might be of a superficial nature, but as it progressed I found myself in one of the deepest soul-searching discussions I have ever participated in. A meeting of this kind was in itself an example of where to attack race prejudice."

* * * *

Time magazine, in its August 12 issue, carried a story of "One Farm Program that Works," which rightly declares that 2,500,000 marginal farmers are not helped at all by the much discussed farm subsidies. These people need aid too. For them the Federal government has designed the Rural Development Program, which is working on a budget of only $2,500,000 this year.

The article describes a few of many projects which have been encouraged by

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NEED YOUTH WELFARE PROGRAM

Communications received by the Editor of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY indicate that social action groups as wide apart as Montana and Maine have been working for improvements in the treatment of juvenile offenders. The following article from Mrs. A. J. Scott, Chairman of Christian Social Action for the Montana Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women, shows the kind of interest people are taking. Mrs. Scott was one of 35 national leaders who were invited to Washington last March to discuss juvenile problems with government officials.

"A number of bills were introduced in the House of Representatives to help state and local communities help themselves in the control and treatment of juvenile delinquents. Prominent among the several bills introduced were HR 5539 (by Frelinghuysen of New Jersey) and HR 652 (by Edith Green of Oregon) . . . Hearings on the legislation have been reported, and can be secured from your congressmen.

"The legislation provides for appropriations for the purpose of assisting states to strengthen and improve local programs. Grants would also be provided for demonstrating and developing improved methods to control juvenile delinquency and for training personnel.

"Because delinquency is growing three times as fast as the child population this legislation provides for a national policy to promote coordinating and planning among public and private organizations whose programs relate to this problem. These would include those concerned with welfare, health (including mental health) and education.

"Our churches have been deeply concerned and interested in undergirding every effort toward the prevention, control and treatment of juvenile delinquency by the use of trained personnel, and research into the real causes. It is important that lay people study this vital legislation, and then let their Congressmen know their feelings concerning it. Every scientific means of approach to this problem needs to be used lest we lose the cold war at home."

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

News and Program Service of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ

Ray Gibbons, Director
Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committees.

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General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

FRIENDS HELP KOINONIA

Word has come to us that the Koinonia Community, Americus, Georgia, has in hand somewhat over half of the $50,000 required to pay for the machinery for processing pecans. This has come in from persons all over the country who have wanted to show their interest and support for this brave effort at creating a genuine Christian interracial community in the deep South. Others who would be interested to lend $25.00 or several units of $25.00, at 4 per cent interest, may still do so. However, such loans will need to be for six years, or longer, as the short term loans have been made by earlier subscribers. All that is necessary is to send a check for the amount of the loan to Dr. Clarence Jordan, Koinonia Farms, Americus, Georgia. This will be acknowledged and a note will be signed and returned covering the face of the loan.

Order blanks may be had from the Council for Christian Social Action or directly from Koinonia Farms for the purpose of ordering shelled pecans or shelled peanuts, pecans in the shell or peanuts in the shell. Prices quoted are postpaid except for orders going West of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and the Dakotas.

HELP ON MIDDLE EAST

The Council for Christian Social Action still has on hand a number of packets on the situation in the Middle East. Containing materials presenting various points of view, and a particularly helpful historical outline of the Middle East situation, this packet will be useful to anyone who wishes to think clearly or to make a speech on that part of the world. The packet may be had free of charge by writing to:

Rev. Herman F. Reissig,
289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

News from the Churches

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Rural Development in more than 54 test areas around the nation. The big idea is "to encourage local farm leaders, businessmen, clergymen, and others to take over and work out their own farm improvement plans . . . with some technical and loan assistance." In some instances the program has succeeded in bringing new industries into rural areas which were losing population "in droves." For example, "in Monroe County, Ohio, ministers sparked a countryside poll of the labor force, which helped attract a new Olin Mathieson aluminum plant."

Incidentally, pastors of fourteen Evangelical and Reformed churches cooperating with the Pioneer Larger Parish were among the leaders in this project.

* * * *

For the third consecutive year, the Christian Action committee at First Church in Northampton, Mass., reports a "most successful" Friendly Town project. In co-operation with the New York *Herald-Tribune* Fresh Air Fund and the East Harlem Protestant Parish, the committee arranged for first 20, then 58, and last summer 28 children to spend two-week vacations at homes in Northampton and vicinity. (The greater size of the 1956 group was explained by two vacation periods instead of the usual one.)

Most of the youngsters each summer were Negroes and Puerto Ricans from Harlem and other crowded, tenement districts of New York City. Here was real integration, as colored children (ages 5 through 12) became temporary members of all-white families in all-white neighborhoods—and the experience was enjoyed by all.

Another Opportunity

Ministers and mission workers in industrial and urban communities should know of the Presbyterian Institute of Industrial Relations and its three seminars on The Church, Labor and the City which are projected for 1958. Two of these will be held in Chicago, January 20 to February 6, and April 7 to 24. The third will be in San Francisco, May 5 to 22.

The seminars are set up to help church leaders understand modern industrial management, labor unions, and social forces that influence attitudes, beliefs, and behavior. Further information may be had from the Presbyterian Institute of Industrial Relations, 2330 North Halsted Street, Chicago 14, Illinois.